Welcome to
Tyabb Railway Station
Primary School

Foundation Year
Curriculum Outline

2013

Developed from the Australian National Curriculum

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Welcome

A warm friendly hello

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."

Gilbert K. Chesterton

This booklet is designed to inform you and your family on our current curriculum and gives you examples of what you can expect to see in your child’s first year at school.

As you will read in this booklet, you will see how our school offers a complete academic education including extra curricula programs, rich in stimulating and innovative activities in which every child has the opportunity to excel. A strong emphasis is placed on building upon self-esteem and confidence, and maintaining an environment in which children love to learn.

Tyabb Railway Station Primary School began using the Australian National Curriculum at the beginning of the 2012 school year. Our teaching staff are dedicated and as a school we value Professional Development. We believe we are always learning. Every new day brings another enjoyable learning experience.
At Tyabb Railway Station Primary School, the English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. We run daily reading groups, where students are grouped across the junior school according to their individual learning needs. The students begin reading using Magic Words. These words are the most frequently used words in the English language. We have daily activities based around alphabet letters and sounds. All these components help children to begin reading and writing in their first year at school.

**A learning example...**

**Writing**

Students are involved in daily writing sessions using real life experiences that are meaningful, engaging and fun. An example of this is when the students were learning about procedural texts, they looked at cookbooks and followed a recipe to make ANZAC biscuits. As a class, they wrote the procedure and made a class book to share.
A HANDS ON APPROACH

In Maths, the first year of school is about introducing concepts and laying the foundations. This is done through the use of concrete materials and real life experiences. The students explore the areas of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

ICT component: The students use Mathletics at school and home to help support the school program.

A learning example...

Measurement and Geometry—Length

In a unit on length, the students all thought that they could jump further than a kangaroo. The students jumped as far as they could and we measured their jump using icy pole sticks. The average jump was about 15 icy pole sticks. We then researched how far kangaroo can jump using our interactive whiteboard. We found that a red kangaroo can jump an average of 12 metres. That’s about 180 icy pole sticks. WOW!
INVESTIGATIONS

A PLAY AND PROJECT BASED PHILOSOPHY

As a part of the school program, the students participate in 'investigations'. Investigations is project based play with learning stations that are linked to our unit of inquiry, which changes each term. The students engage with a broad range of activities that are developmentally suited to meet their needs. Maths and English skills are embedded and promoted through dramatic play experiences.

A LEARNING EXAMPLE...

At the post office

To explore communities, learning stations were set up to help children understand the needs of a community. In the post office the students wrote letters, designed and created their own stamps and postcards. They delivered their mail to their peers and teachers. Through participating in this activity students learnt how to write letters, practiced writing and learnt about the mailing process.
Unit of inquiry

Student centred learning

Each term there is a unit of inquiry, where the students explore the inquiry units focus questions. The inquiry unit supports the operation of investigations. For a recent unit of inquiry on ‘community and its resources’ the students had a meeting to discuss and brainstorm the shops and services that would help them to answer the focus questions of “what is a community?” And “what are the needs of a community?”

The students were placed into multi age groups made up of preps, grade 1s and grades 2s. Through guided discussion the students came up with a need for a hospital, a veterinary clinic, a newspaper, bank, post office, grocery store, café, construction zone, puppet theatre and a factory.

Each week the students rotated classrooms and teachers to experience the other learning stations to gain a better understanding of a community and its needs.

As a part of the inquiry, incursions and excursions were arranged to inform students of the important places and people in our community. The students went to the local airport and a walk down Tyabb Main Street. They had visits from the CFA, Ambulance Victoria and participated in the Responsible Pet Ownership Program.

At the end of the inquiry unit the students produced a 3D model of Tyabb and displayed it at an exhibition for the school community.

All these elements helped to support the students learning in how communities function.
Information, Communication, Technology

Modern Technology

At Tyabb Railway Station Primary School, we believe ICT is an essential tool in learning and an important part of children’s daily lives. Students use digital technologies every day—both in and out of school for learning, socialising and play. ICT is imbed into every curriculum area. We have interactive whiteboards in every classroom and learning space in our school. We have a computer lab, lap tops, iPads and flip cameras for the students to use. By using this technology and keeping up with modern trends, we are opening up wider horizon in education and learning, making our students more globally aware.

Specialists

A Well Rounded Curriculum
In addition to our classroom program, we provide quality programs in ICT, Music, PE, Performing Arts, Art, Indonesian and Library.

Our students participate in the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)

A student completing an activity on the interactive whiteboard
How you can help at home

Linking school to home

Home reading– make reading apart of your daily routine. Listen to your child read their daily school take home book. Emphasis is fully on students’ enjoyment and building confidence.

Practice the Magic Words– make up games like snap and memory with the Magic Words.

Counting objects– count wherever and whatever you can. When you’re at the supermarket look for numbers. Count the quantity of fruit and vegetables. Look at the money used to pay for items.

Play games– Listen to the sound words start with. On car trips, eye spy is a great game. Snakes and ladders and dice games are great for counting.

These are just a few ideas for you and your family to make every day experiences, a learning opportunity.